

AMENDMENTS

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Currently amended) A method for monitoring effective thrombin levels in ~~patients~~a human patient undergoing anticoagulant therapy comprising measuring circulating levels of soluble endothelial protein C receptor (sEPCR) of said patient, wherein lowered sEPCR levels relate to lowered effective thrombin activity.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the anticoagulant therapy involves a vitamin K antagonist.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the anticoagulant therapy involves at least one of Warfarin, Coumadine, Previscan, and Sintrom.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the anticoagulant therapy involves use of heparin, low molecular weight heparin, pentasaccharides, hirudin, hirudin analogs, coagulation factor inhibitors, protein C pathway components, tissue factor pathway inhibitors, anti-platelet compounds or fibrinolytic pathway components.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the sEPCR is measured by an immunoassay.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the sEPCR is measured by ELISA.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the sEPCR level is determined by measuring sEPCR in a blood product, cerebrospinal fluid or urine.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the blood product is plasma or serum.

9. (Currently amended) A method for monitoring effectiveness of anticoagulant therapy in a human patient comprising measuring circulating sEPCR levels of said patient, wherein decreases in sEPCR indicate that the anticoagulant therapy is effective.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the anticoagulant therapy involves a vitamin K antagonist.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein the anticoagulant therapy involves at least one of Warfarin, Coumadine, Previscan, and Sintrom.
12. The method of claim 9, wherein the anticoagulant therapy involves use of heparin, low molecular weight heparin, pentasaccharides, hirudin, hirudin analogs, coagulation factor inhibitors, protein C pathway components, tissue factor pathway inhibitors, anti-platelet compounds or fibrinolytic pathway components.
13. The method of claim 9, wherein the sEPCR is measured by an immunoassay.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the sEPCR is measured by ELISA.
15. The method of claim 9, wherein the sEPCR level is determined by measuring sEPCR in a blood product, cerebrospinal fluid or urine.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the blood product is plasma or serum.
- 17-30. (Canceled)